

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-09

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 INRE-00 SSO-00 EURE-00 DRC-01 SCS-01 NSCE-00

SCA-01 IO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 /073 W

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O P 071525Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5796

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US OTRA (AHEPA DELEGATION)

SUBJECT: AHEPA VISIT

REF: ATHENS 7197

1. AHEPA DELEGATION RETURNED FROM CYPRUS AT 0430 HOURS, OCTOBER 4, 1974 VIA C-47 AIRCRAFT PROVIDED BY DAO ATHENS.

2. ON FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 4, THE DELEGATION HELD A WELL-ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE HILTON. MR. J. PLUMIDES, CHAIRMAN OF THE JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS COMMITTEE OF AHEPA, MR. W. CHIRGOTIS, SUPREME PRESIDENT, MR. W. TSAFFARAS AND MR. P. BELL, FORMER SUPREME PRESIDENTS, AND MR. G. DOURIS, PR DIRECTOR OF AHEPA TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN EXPLAINING THAT THE VISIT WAS A FACT-FINDING OPERATION WHICH INCLUDED VISITS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE (TWICE), THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF GREECE, THE MINISTER TO THE PM, THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF SOCIAL SERVICES. IN CYPRUS THE GROUP CONFERRED WITH ACTING PRESIDENT CLERIDES (TWICE) AND V.P. DENKTASH. VISITS WERE ALSO MADE TO FOUR REFUGEE CAMPS. THE IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE:

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A) THE DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED BY BOTH CLERIDES AND DENKTASH AND FELT THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN SETTLING THE CYPRUS PROBLEMS IF THE TWO LEADERS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE INDEPENDENTLY.

B) RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. AS AN INITIAL STEP THE DELEGATION TOLD PRESS REPS THAT BOTH DENKTASH AND CLERIDES HAD AGREED TO THE IDEA THAT REFUGEES (80,000) BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO FAMAGUSTA WHICH WOULD THEN BE PLACED UNDER UN CONTROL UNTIL A FINAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

C) THE AHEPA DELEGATION WOULD URGE THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE \$50,000,000 APPROPRIATION FOR REFUGEE RELIEF.

D) IT WAS STATED THAT THE GREEKS (BOTH IN CYPRUS AND GREECE) MUST UNITE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. INTERNECINE FIGHTING OR DISPUTES WOULD GIVE THE TURKS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE ISLAND.

E) DELEGATION ALLEGED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ASKED GOG PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO "GET THE GREEK-AMERICANS OFF MY BACK." (ALTHOUGH THEY NEVER REVEALED THE SOURCE OF THIS). THEY TOLD PRESS THEY INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY AFTER THEIR RETURN.

3. THE AHEPA GROUP WAS VERY ACTIVE. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THEY HOSTED A LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY EIGHT RANKING NEWSPAPER REPORTERS AND EDITORS. ALSO, THE MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. RALLIS, HOSTED A LUNCHEON AT THE GRANDE BRETAGNE HOTEL. ATTENDING WERE CHIRGOTIS, TSAFFARAS, BELL AND SCOFFIELD FROM AHEPA. THE GOG WAS REPRESENTED BY MR. RALLIS (HOST), MR. TSATSOS (MIN. OF CULTURE), MR. BITSIOS (DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER), MR. PETROUNAKOS (OVERSEAS-GREEK DIVISION, MOFA) AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

4. RADIO, TV AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS FAVORABLE AND EXTENSIVE DURING THE ENTIRE VISIT.

5. THREE THOUSAND POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES WERE FLOWN TO AKROTIRI IN THE C-47. SEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ARE STORED IN AN EMBASSY WAREHOUSE UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO HAVE THESE SUPPLIES SHIPPED TO CYPRUS ON BEHALF OF AHEPA.

6. SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION LEFT ON TWA 881 AT 1030 HOURS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6. MR. PLUMIDES LEFT ON SATURDAY.

7. THE CONTROL OFFICER, FSO GEANEAS, EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE

COUNSELOR, ACCOMPANIED THE DELEGATION TO CYPRUS (AT THEIR REQUEST TO THE AMBASSADOR) AND PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, THE BRIEFINGS AND ASSISTANCE BY EMBASSY ATHENS, AND THE HOSPITALITY OF THE AMBASSADOR WERE APPRECIATED AND RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENT. THE ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE BROUGHT UP ON THEIR RETURN, WAS THE USG'S INABILITY TO FURNISH A BETTER AIRCRAFT THAN THE RELATIVELY SLOW AIR ATTACHE'S C-47 TO TRANSPORT THE GROUP FROM ATHENS TO CYPRUS AND RETURN.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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